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# INTRODUCTION

In September 1988, Death Valley National Park released its first *Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan*. A notice of availability was published in the *Federal Register* by the Environmental Protection Agency on September 11, 1998 (FR 48727). Public review occurred from September 11, 1998 through January 15, 1999, a period of 127 days. Eleven public meetings were held in October 1998 throughout the planning region of southern California and southern Nevada. At these meetings a form was provided for the public to write specific comments that they desired to be addressed by the planning team. In addition, the planning team attended and participated in five meetings of the Death Valley Advisory Commission to obtain their feedback, concerns, and direction regarding the development of the general management plan.

Approximately 450 printed copies of the *1998 Draft Environmental Impact Statement / General Management Plan* were distributed for review. In addition, about 100 CD-ROMs containing both 1998 draft plans for Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve were also sent. The entire 1998 draft plan was also posted on the internet with a link from the Park's homepage and the Northern and Eastern Mojave planning page. Appendix A is a list of agencies, organizations, and individuals who were sent copies of the plan.

Death Valley National Park received approximately 613 comment letters from government agencies, tribes, interest groups, and individuals (see appendix B). The Park received a petition from the town of Darwin signed by 44 people. In addition, members of environmental groups (National Parks and Conservation Association, The Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society) sent in approximately 1,800 identical postcards. Several additional letters and postcards were received after the closing date for public comments. All written comments are on file at Park headquarters.

Agencies are directed to respond to substantive public comments received during the comment period on draft environmental impact statements. Comments are considered substantive when they: a) question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the draft environmental impact statement, b) question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis, c) present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the draft environmental impact statement, or d) cause changes or revisions in the proposal. Comments that state a preference for one alternative (or component of an alternative), state opinions, or are outside the scope of the plan, are not considered substantive. However, all letters are read and considered. Substantive comments were addressed by means of written responses, and where appropriate, by revisions to the text of the 1998 draft plan. Substantive comments are summarized on the following pages, along with our responses.

Largely due to public comments, substantial changes were made to the 1998 draft plan. Consequently, the National Park Service prepared a revised draft plan to address concerns raised and to solicit additional public review on the changes. Although not required, the National Park Service also chose to provide responses to the comments received on the 1998 draft plan in an attempt to clarify issues, address inaccuracies, and provide responses to questions raised on the 1998 draft plan. This volume of the *Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement* for Death Valley National Park provides a complete review and response to agency and public comments received on the 1998 draft plan.

# AGENCY COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE 1998 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

(Agency letters are included in their entirety, along with our responses)

Agency	Code	Page
<b>Federal Agencies</b>		
Environmental Protection Agency	<b>EPA</b>	3
Department of the Navy	<b>DON</b>	5
Death Valley National Park Advisory Commission	<b>DVAC</b>	7
<b>Native American Tribes</b>		
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	<b>TIMB</b>	10
<b>State and County Agencies</b>		
California Department of Fish and Game	<b>CDFG</b>	16
Nevada State Clearinghouse	<b>NVS</b>	30
Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities	<b>NDNR</b>	35
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	<b>SBBS</b>	56

## COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Since many comments were received from individuals and organizations, we attempted to capture the essence of the substantive comments and provide a summary of similar comments (*shown in italics*) to which we then provide a response. The guide to comment subjects beginning on page 59 is organized under the same major headings as the *1998 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan* that was released in September 1998. The subheadings and the items listed under them are intended to provide a tool for finding the agency response to comments received on that draft plan.